

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 7 on page 1 as follows:

As depicted in Figure 1, an exemplary traffic network 100 is shown. The exemplary traffic network 100 includes one or more roadways 110 each having one or more lanes 120, one or more vehicles 130, 140, 160, 170 and one or more traffic control devices 150. Such conventional traffic networks are plagued with inefficient traffic flow, delays, and accidents. The traffic networks are characterized primarily by passive communication means (e.g., red, yellow and green lights) and/or communication means requiring manual operation (e.g., braking ~~breaking~~) by the operators of vehicles.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 1 on page 9 as follows:

In one embodiment in accordance with the invention, each vehicle 245 includes a traffic communication unit 250. Each traffic communication unit 250 includes an optical detector 255, a signal recovery circuit 260, and message decoder 265. The optical detector 255 receives the optical output 240 from the light source 230 of the traffic control device 210. The optical detector 255 converts ~~convert~~ the intensity modulated optical output 240 into an electrical signal. In one embodiment in accordance with the invention, the optical detector 255 includes a photo diode and amplifier. The photo diode can be an avalanche photo-diode (APD) or a PIN (p-region/intrinsic-region/n-region) diode.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 13 on page 11 as follows:

The traffic communication unit 330 of vehicle 2 includes a transceiver 350, an encoder/decoder 345, one or more sensors 335, and one or more visual display or audio alert units ~~335~~ 340. The transmitted signal is received by the

transceiver 350 and is converted into a received signal. The encoder/decoder 345 decodes the received signal to recover the data encoded therein. The data is then presented to the operator of the second vehicle on a visual display unit and/or an audio alert unit 340, and/or utilized by a control component of vehicle 2 (e.g., collision avoidance system).